

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO 1.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, which encodes a protein consisting ~~essentially~~ of the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO 1.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, which is a DNA molecule.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3, comprising a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO 2 or a nucleotide sequence which differs from the sequence according to SEQ ID NO 2 only due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3, comprising a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO 3 or a nucleotide sequence which differs from the sequence according to SEQ ID NO 3 only due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3, comprising a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO 4 or a nucleotide sequence which differs from the sequence according to SEQ ID NO 4 only due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3, ~~which consists essentially~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4 and a nucleotide sequence which differs from any of the said nucleotide sequences only due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 8, additionally comprising at least one further nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group of proteins encoded by the following *Acremonium chrysogenum* genes: pcbAB, pcbC, cefD1, cefD2, cefEF and cefG.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 8, additionally comprising two further nucleic acid molecules encoding the proteins encoded by the *Acremonium chrysogenum* genes: pcbAB and pcbC, respectively.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 8, additionally comprising two further nucleic acid molecules encoding ~~for~~ the proteins encoded by the *Acremonium chrysogenum* genes: cefD1 and cefD2, respectively.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 8, additionally comprising two further nucleic acid molecules encoding the proteins encoded by the Acremonium chrysogenum genes: cefEF and cefG, respectively.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 8, which is suitable for transformation of a host cell.

Claim 14. (Original) The vector according to claim 13, wherein the host cell is a microorganism.

Claim 15. (Original) The vector according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism is Acremonium chrysogenum.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell which has been transformed with a vector according to claim 8.

Claim 17. (Original) The host cell according to claim 16, which is a microorganism.

Claim 18. (Original) The host cell according to claim 17, wherein the microorganism is Acremonium chrysogenum.

Claim 19. (Original) A process for production of cephalosporin C, comprising culturing of a host cell according to claim 18 under conditions suitable for effecting production of cephalosporin C by the host cell.

Claim 20. (Original) The process according to claim 19, further comprising isolation of the cephalosporin C produced.

Claim 21. (Original) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO 1.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim 21, ~~which consists essentially~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO 1.